

## Activity: Alaska Minerals

### SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY (\$000)

Subactivity		2002 Actual Amount	2003 Estimate Amount	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-) Amount	Program Changes (+/-) Amount	2004 Budget Request Amount	Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2003 Amount
Alaska	\$	3,997	2,228	+10	-16	2,222	-6
Minerals	FTE	17	12	0	+0	12	0

### 2004 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2004 budget request for the Alaska Minerals program is \$2,222,000 and 12 FTE.

The Alaska Minerals program supports the Resource Use mission goal from the Department's Draft Strategic Plan by managing or influencing Federal mineral resources in Alaska to enhance public benefit, promote responsible use, and ensure optimal value. These assessments ensure effective public and private mineral supply decisions by providing information that can be used to identify land use management alternatives and policy options, complete reliable cost analyses of alternate sources of mineral supply, and analyze mineral extraction technologies. In addition, the BLM develops cost-effective techniques for characterizing the environmental hazards associated with waste from past mining and minerals processing operations in Alaska. (see Alaska Minerals performance summary at the end of this subactivity discussion).

**Mineral Assessment** -There are 15 mining districts in Alaska with completed or nearly completed mineral assessments. Mineral assessments for another 15 of the mining districts are scheduled in priority order in the long-range planning document for 2004 and beyond. Assessments of the remaining 43 mining districts are not currently scheduled.

In 2004, significant accomplishments planned will include the following:

- Field crews will investigate known mineral occurrences in the ongoing mineral assessments. The planned workload measure is 40 sites investigated for the Delta River Mining District and 98 sites investigated for the expanded Aniak Mining District.
- Updates for the Annual Mining Plan Applications database will be completed. Information on producing mineral properties, major developing mineral properties, prospect sites and current exploration projects will also be updated.
- Airborne geophysical surveys will be used to supplement the ongoing and planned mineral assessments.



BLM geologist conducting an assessment for the Alaska Minerals Program

## 2002 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2002, major accomplishments in the Alaska Minerals program include the following:

- Publication of economic feasibility report for the Koyukuk Mining District mineral assessment, BLM-Alaska Technical Report 38, *Economic Prefeasibility Studies of Mining in the Koyukuk Mining District, Northern Alaska*.
- Publication of analytical data from Koyukuk Mining District mineral assessment, BLM-Alaska Open File Report 84, *Analytical Results from Mineral Investigations in the Koyukuk Mining District, Northern Alaska*.
- Publication of Stikine area mineral assessment final report, BLM-Alaska Technical Report 51, *Mineral Assessment of the Stikine Area, Central Southeast Alaska*.
- Publication of the economic prefeasibility report for the Stikine area mineral assessment, BLM-Alaska Technical Report 52, *Economic Prefeasibility Studies of Mining in the Stikine Area, Southeast Alaska*.
- A full-scale field program was begun in the Delta River district. An airborne geophysical survey was conducted and supplemented with additional geophysical data acquired from past surveys. A ground geophysics project performed in conjunction with the USGS identified prospective deep mineral deposits in the Delta River Mining District.
- The Aniak Mining District mineral assessment was augmented with an airborne geophysical survey conducted in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.
- The Data At-Risk program was continued. This program converts old maps, reports, and analytical data into electronic format for inclusion in computer databases and ultimately distribution to the public.
- The Alaska Cost Factors project was started, to update the economic data used in the economic feasibility studies.

## 2003 PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

In 2003, significant planned accomplishments will include the following:

- Publication of Koyukuk Mining District mineral assessment final report, BLM-Alaska Technical Report 50, *Mineral Investigations in the Koyukuk Mining District, Northern Alaska*.
- The BLM is continuing a program to provide on-line Internet accessibility to the Juneau Minerals Information Center library.
- Economic modeling for mineral deposit types in the mining districts will be started and databases will be updated; final reports will be published in 2005.
- The Alaska Minerals Information System computerized minerals database will be updated for the Koyukuk and Stikine mineral assessments.

- Internet postings will continue to include the following: current Federal and State mining claims; Federal and State status plats; historical Federal mining claims in Alaska, starting with 2001; State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Kardex files; and an inquiry system for Alaska Geologic Materials Center. The BLM's historic mineral files in Juneau and Anchorage were scanned and converted to viewable documents that will be available on the Internet.
- The Alaska Cost Factors study will be completed and the results published as a BLM Technical Report.
- Work will continue for the Delta River Mining District mineral assessment, with a final report scheduled for 2005.
- Work will continue for the Aniak Mining District Study, with a final report scheduled for 2006.
- Release by State of Alaska Division of Geophysical and Geological Surveys of the data from the airborne geophysical survey in the Delta River Mining District study, completed in July 2002.
- Release by ADGGS of the data from the airborne geophysical survey in the Aniak mining District study, completed in October 2002.
- The BLM, in cooperation with the State of Alaska has funded an integrated system to make mining claim information on both State and Federal lands available on the Internet at <http://akmining.info>. The system will be tied to the State Records Office and Department of Natural Resources and the BLM lands databases, with computer links to mining claims, title, and land status information.
- Release by ADGGS of the data from the airborne geophysical survey in the Aniak mining District study, completed in October 2002.
- The BLM and USGS, in cooperation with the State of Alaska, U.S. Forest Service, libraries, native corporations, universities, and others, are developing a minerals information system. This minerals information system will collect and organize information addressing library resources, databases, and preservation of physical samples and make the information available through Internet linkages to existing and future data systems with the cooperating agencies and groups. The Liaison Committee expects the minerals information system to be completed by the end of 2004.

***Collaborative and Cooperative Management*** - The following are examples of collaborative and cooperative management activities and projects that will continue to be funded in 2003 in the Alaska Minerals program.

- **Aniak Mining District Study** -This five-year mining district study is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, the State of Alaska's Division of Geophysical and Geological Surveys, and several native regional corporations. Mineral assessments ensure effective public and private mineral supply decisions by providing information that is used to identify land use management alternatives and policy options, reliable cost analyses of alternate sources of mineral supply, and mineral extraction technologies.
- **Minerals Data Information Rescue in Alaska/Interagency Minerals Coordinating Group** - The BLM in Alaska works jointly with other agencies to make geologic information and physical rock samples available for public use. Member agencies include the U.S. Geological Survey, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and the State of Alaska Division of Geophysical and Geological Surveys. The BLM Alaska is cooperating with the ADGGS to

provide electronic access to all publicly held minerals data in Alaska. Projects include the Mining Claims Information System, a statewide interagency bibliography, inventory of acquisitions, storage, and accessibility of minerals data in Alaska.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2004 PROGRAM CHANGES

### 2004 PROGRAM CHANGES

	2004 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
\$(000)	2,222	-16
FTE	12	0

The 2004 budget request for Alaska Minerals is \$2,222,000, and 12 FTE, a program change of -\$16,000 from the 2003 requested level.

**Information Technology, (\$16,000)** - The Department and BLM are undertaking significant information technology reforms to: improve the management of IT investments, enhance the security of IT systems and information, and realize short and long-term efficiencies and savings. The Department is taking a corporate approach that will include consolidated purchases of hardware and software, consolidation of support functions including helpdesks, email support, web services, and training. Savings will be possible by reducing, but not eliminating, IT support services at Bureau field offices and consolidating these services at the national level.

Reductions to specific BLM IT systems are also proposed. These reductions are possible because of deferring or canceling system enhancements on the Management Information System; the Federal Human Resource Information System; the Smart Card program; the Corporate Metadata Repository; the IT Enterprise Information Portal; LAWNET, which tracks law enforcement incidents and responses; Tivoli, a management tool that permits updates of software from remote locations; and Nobility, which standardizes the Bureau's efforts to automate the NEPA process and in the case of this program the eGov initiatives within the Automated Fluids Management Support System.

**ALASKA MINERALS PERFORMANCE SUMMARY****DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Use**

**End Outcome Goal: Manage or influence resource use to enhance public benefit, promote responsible use, and ensure optimal value -- non-energy minerals.**

<b>End Outcome Measures:</b>	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Access: Number of acres available for non-energy mineral resource exploration and development consistent with applicable management plans. (Alaska specific)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A

**Intermediate Outcome Goal 4: Improve information base, resource management and technical assistance.**

<b>Intermediate Outcome Measures:</b>	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Management Plans: Increase % of areas available with non-energy mineral resources exploration and development that are covered by current management plan based on land use plan evaluations. (Alaska specific)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A
Baseline Information: Increase % of non-energy mineral resource areas with adequate information (soil survey, vegetation mapping, hydrologic assessments, wildlife assessments, etc) available to support management decisions. (Alaska specific)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A

<b>Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:</b>	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Assess Alaska Minerals (number).	40	112	108	138	138	+0